



GLIDECOAT RV CERAMIC COATINGS MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Ceramic coatings have become increasingly popular in the detailing world over the past few years, but even with the popularity of ceramic coatings, there is still a lot of misinformation about coatings and what they can do.

Ceramic coatings are one of, if not the best product to protect and preserve the integrity of your surface, far superior to traditional wax and sealants (especially in the marine and RV market). One of the most common misinterpretations of a ceramic coating is that they are almost maintenance free, or your RV will not get dirty if it has a ceramic coating. That is simply not the case.

While ceramic coatings are extremely durable, they require ongoing maintenance to ensure that you are getting the full benefits and protection out of your ceramic coating. With that being said, the main benefit of having a ceramic coating is that your ongoing maintenance is much easier and more effective (with less effort) than using a traditional wax or sealant.

In this guide we will explain how to properly maintain a ceramic coating on your RV to ensure you are getting the most out of your ceramic coating, and properly protect your investment.

HOW TO VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/UPiDJryqibo>

INITIAL APPLICATION MAINTENANCE

After the application of Glidecoat's ALPHA Ceramic Coating, it is important to let the coating fully cure before getting the RV wet or resuming regular use. Glidecoat's ALPHA Ceramic Coating cures in 4 hours before getting wet, and 12-15 hours for full cure. Cold temperatures cause the coating to cure slower, so plan for the maximum cure time if curing in cooler weather.

If rain is imminent during the application, make sure you stop applying the coating at least 1-2 hours before it rains to allow the coating to begin the curing process. If the RV gets wet or rained on during the curing process, dry the RV as soon as possible, and avoid letting the RV air-dry to prevent potential water spots on the surface.

Note: Allow a minimum of 24 hours before washing the RV.



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Ongoing maintenance is an important factor in ensuring that you get the most benefits from your ceramic coating. If a coating is too dirty, this layer of contamination (bugs, dirt, bird droppings, water spots) will diminish the stain resistance and hydrophobic properties of the ceramic coating, making your RV more difficult to clean, defeating the main purpose of a ceramic coating.

Here are some general guidelines for ongoing maintenance of your ceramic coating:

After the coating has fully cured, we recommend bi-weekly washes and spot cleaning as needed.

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- Bi-weekly washes (every two weeks) with CGI Detailing's Polymer Infused Soap. Avoid using high pH soaps such as Dawn dish soap, or soaps that contain heavy cleaners or degreasers. These soaps won't harm the coating after a few uses, but continual use of aggressive soaps and cleaners will expedite the wear of the top layer of coating. This will diminish and reduce the protective qualities of the ceramic coating, as well as reduce the longevity of the coating. CGI's Polymer Infused Soap is the perfect after care soap for you ceramic coating. Polymer Infused Soap is designed to increase the gloss of the surface while leaving a layer of protection on top of the ceramic coating to promote longevity.
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- Don't let the RV air dry, this will cause water spots on the ceramic coating. Over time these water spots can etch into the coating and become difficult to remove. If there are areas of the RV that you cannot access to dry, we recommend using a stream of water (not a spray nozzle) down the sides to remove contaminants while not leaving excess water on the surface.

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- Dry the RV with a microfiber drying cloth or a clean chamois.
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- If you are noticing a loss in hydrophobic quality, it may be caused by a build up on iron particles (rail dust, brake dust, air pollution, industrial fallout, etc.). This affects how water reacts to the surface. We recommend using Glidecoat Iron Remover to remove these contaminants. First, wash the surface to remove dirt, then spray area to be cleaned with Glidecoat Iron Remover and let dwell for 5-10 minutes. Do not let the Iron Remover dry. A light mist of water may be used to keep the surface wet. Agitate the surface with a soft wash mitt, towel or sponge dedicated for use with Glidecoat Iron Remover. Finally, rinse thoroughly with water to ensure all Iron Remover is rinsed away.

- Avoid using stiff bristled brushes or abrasive washing tools. We recommend a microfiber wash mitt or soft-bristled brush.
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SPOT CLEANING MAINTENANCE

In between your bi-weekly washes you may need some spot cleaning. Whether it's water spots from the rain, bugs or bird droppings, we recommend cleaning them as you see them to make your ongoing maintenance that much easier.

Here are some general guidelines for spot cleaning:

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- Always use a microfiber cloth when spot cleaning and avoid using excessive pressure.
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- When spot cleaning bird droppings or small stains, we recommend using a waterless wash or CGI's Ceramic Shield with a microfiber cloth which will add a layer of protection while cleaning

- Spot clean the RV after each long trip to remove contaminants. After a long trip, the front cap will typically be covered in bug guts, which are highly acidic and can cause etching on the gel coat or paint if they are left on the surface too long. Ceramic Shield is the perfect solution for this.
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QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE

In addition to ongoing maintenance and spot cleaning, ceramic coatings benefit from a maintenance spray every 3-4 months, such as CGI's Ceramic Shield. Ceramic Shield will enhance the shine and hydrophobic effect of the surface, while adding an additional layer of protection on top of the ceramic coating to promote longevity.

Ceramic Shield is a simple spray on, wipe off application.

Here are some general guidelines for applying Ceramic Shield for quarterly maintenance:

- Ceramic Shield can be applied as needed to add gloss and water beading to the surface.

- Do not apply Ceramic Shield to a dirty surface, always clean/wash the area first before applying.

- Ceramic Shield can be applied to a wet surface, allowing you to dry the surface while leaving some protection behind.

- We recommend using two microfibers when applying Ceramic Shield, using the first microfiber to buff the surface while using a second clean microfiber to ensure the surface is smooth and uniform.

- Ceramic Shield can be layered with multiple coats for enhanced protection, allow a minimum of 30 minutes between each coat.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

We recommend having your ceramic coating inspected at least once a year by the initial installer to ensure everything is working properly.

An annual coating inspection typically consists of a decontamination wash with Glidecoat Iron Remover to remove contamination from the surface that could be impacting the hydrophobic properties of the ceramic coating. After applying the Iron Remover, wash the RV with CGI's Polymer Infused Soap. Then closely inspect the coated surfaces to ensure that the ceramic coating is holding up as expected.

If any of the high sun exposed areas have significantly diminished in gloss (determined by the gloss meter) or hydrophobic performance, it may require a light polish to restore the shine to that area and an additional coat of the ceramic coating to be applied. Otherwise, apply RV Ceramic Shield to all coated areas.

If a Certified Glidecoat Pro installed your ceramic coating, you may want to ask them about scheduling an annual, quarterly or ongoing maintenance service.